

Listing of the Claims:

Claim 1 (Original): A method for producing multi-segment filter elements in the tobacco-processing industry, wherein the multi-segment filter elements each include a first filter segment and at least one second filter segment, the method comprising:

arranging a sleeve element in the first filter segment;
inserting the second filter segment into the sleeve element in the first filter segment; and
pulling the sleeve element out.

Claim 2 (Original): The method according to claim 1, further including compacting the material of the first filter segment prior to arranging the sleeve element.

Claim 3 (Original): The method according to claim 2, wherein the compacting step includes compacting the material of the first filter segment with a mandrel element.

Claim 4 (Original): The method according to claim 3, wherein the compacting step includes admitting the mandrel element with ultrasound.

Claim 5 (Original): The method according to claim 3, including using a mandrel element with a low-friction surface.

Claim 6 (Original): The method according to claim 5, wherein the using step includes using a mandrel coated with one of ceramic and electroplated chromium.

Claim 7 (Original): The method according to claim 3, wherein the compacting step includes piercing the first filter segment with the mandrel element which comes into with the sleeve element.

Claim 8 (Original): The method according to claim 7, wherein the piercing step includes piercing the first filter segment with a rotating movement.

Claim 9 (Original): The method according to claim 7, further including inserting the sleeve element into the filter segment while making contact with the mandrel element.

Claim 10 (Original): The method according to claim 1, further including arranging the second filter segment inside the sleeve element.

Claim 11 (Original): The method according to claim 1, further including securing the first filter segment in place before the material of the first filter segment is compacted.

Claim 12 (Original): The method according to claim 11, further including pulling out the sleeve element from the first filter segment and then releasing the first filter segment.

Claim 13 (Original): The method according to claim 12, further including transferring the respective filter elements to a conveying mechanism following the step of pulling out the sleeve element.

Claim 14 (Original): The method according to claim 13, wherein the conveying mechanism is a conveying drum.

Claim 15 (Original): The method according to claim 12, further including performing the foregoing steps on a conveying drum.

Claim 16 (Original): A multi-segment filter element produced by the method according to claim 1.

Claims 17-26 (Canceled).

Claim 27 (New): A method for producing multi-segment filter elements in the tobacco-processing industry, wherein the multi-segment filter elements each include a first filter segment and at least one second filter segment, the method comprising:

arranging a sleeve element in the first filter segment;

inserting the second filter segment into the sleeve element in the first filter segment; and

pulling the sleeve element out of the first filter segment.